

Applicant : Burrell et al
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In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

2 ~~3~~ (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [1] ~~23~~¹, wherein the antimicrobial metal is nanocrystalline silver, wherein nanocrystalline indicates a grain size which is less than 100 nanometers in at least one dimension.

[4. (Cancelled).

C 1 3 ~~5~~ (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [1] ~~23~~¹, wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes a nanocrystalline powder of ^{Said} one or more antimicrobial metals, or a solution containing dissolved species from a nanocrystalline powder or coating of ^{Said} one or more antimicrobial metals.

4 ~~6~~ (Original) The method as set forth in claim ~~3~~³, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a gel, cream or lotion containing the antimicrobial metal powder in an amount of 0.01 – 5% by weight, or a liquid containing 0.001 – 1 % by weight of the antimicrobial metal.

5 ~~7~~ (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [1] ~~23~~¹, wherein the coating is provided on a dressing.

6 ~~8~~ (Original) The method as set forth in claim ~~7~~⁵, wherein the coating is 150 – 3000 nm thick.

[9. (Cancelled).

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7 10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the coating comprises:
a base layer of partly reflective material capable of generating an interference [colour]
color when covered with a partly reflective, partly light transmissive top layer; and

a top layer formed over said base layer, said top layer being a partly reflective, partly
light transmissive thin film containing at least one noble metal in nanocrystalline form and
having a thickness so that a first or second order interference [colour] color is produced, said top
layer having a refractive index different from that of said base layer, and the noble metal being
formed with sufficient atomic disorder so that the top layer, in contact with an alcohol or water
based electrolyte, releases ions, atoms, molecules or clusters of the noble metal into the alcohol
or water based electrolyte on a sustainable basis.

C1
8 11. (Previously Amended) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the dressing is fixed
in place with an occlusive or semi-occlusive layer which maintains the dressing in a moist
condition.

cont.
9 12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the occlusive layer or semi-
occlusive layer is an adhesive tape or film.

10 13. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the antimicrobial metal
is nanocrystalline silver, wherein nanocrystalline indicates a grain size which is less than 50
nanometers in at least one dimension.

10 14. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the antimicrobial metal
is nanocrystalline silver, wherein nanocrystalline indicates a grain size which is less than 25
nanometers in at least one dimension.

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12 15. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the nanocrystalline
powder includes particulates of the one or more antimicrobial metals having a particulate size
which is less than 100 μm .

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13 ~~16~~. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in claim ~~15~~, wherein the nanocrystalline powder includes particulates of the one or more antimicrobial metals having a particulate size which is less than 40 μm .

17. (Cancelled).

14
15 ~~18~~. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [17] ~~24~~, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a gel, cream or lotion containing the antimicrobial silver in a nanocrystalline form in an amount of 0.01 to 5% by weight.

19. (Cancelled).

14
16 ~~20~~. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [17] ~~24~~, wherein the antimicrobial ^{metal} ~~silver~~ in nanocrystalline form has a grain size of less than 100 nanometers in at least one dimension.

14
17 ~~21~~. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [17] ~~24~~, wherein the antimicrobial ^{metal} ~~silver~~ in nanocrystalline form has a grain size of less than 50 nanometers in at least one dimension.

14
18 ~~22~~. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [17] ~~24~~, wherein the antimicrobial ^{metal} ~~silver~~ in nanocrystalline form has a grain size of less than 25 nanometers in at least one dimension.

1
23. (New) A method of treating acne conditions, the method comprising:
contacting an acne problem area of a patient with a therapeutically effective amount of
one or more antimicrobial metals in a nanocrystalline form to provide a localized antimicrobial ^{and}
anti-inflammatory effect,
wherein:

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the one or more antimicrobial metals in nanocrystalline form have sufficient atomic disorder so that the one or more antimicrobial metals in nanocrystalline form, when in contact with an alcohol or water-based electrolyte, releases atoms, ions, molecules, or clusters of the one or more antimicrobial metals in nanocrystalline form into the alcohol or water-based electrolyte on a sustainable basis and at a concentration sufficient to provide a localized antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effect; and

the one or more antimicrobial metals are provided as a coating on, or filler in, a dressing, or in a pharmaceutical composition with one or more pharmaceutically and dermatologically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients suitable for topical administration.

14 ~~24~~ (New) A method of treating acne conditions, comprising:

contacting an acne problem area of a patient with a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to provide a localized antimicrobial ^{and} anti-inflammatory effect,

wherein:

the pharmaceutical composition comprises:

an antimicrobial metal in a nanocrystalline form; and

one or more pharmaceutically and dermatologically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients suitable for topical administration; and

the antimicrobial metal in nanocrystalline form has sufficient atomic disorder so that the antimicrobial metal in nanocrystalline form, when in contact with an alcohol or water-based electrolyte, releases atoms, ions, molecules, or clusters of the metal into the alcohol or water-based electrolyte on a sustainable basis and at a concentration sufficient to provide a localized antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effect.

19 ~~25~~ (New) The method of claim ¹⁴ ~~24~~, wherein the antimicrobial metal in nanocrystalline form is selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial silver in nanocrystalline form, antimicrobial gold in nanocrystalline form, antimicrobial platinum in nanocrystalline form, and antimicrobial palladium in nanocrystalline form.

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cont.
²⁰~~26~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁴~~24~~, wherein the antimicrobial metal in nanocrystalline form comprises antimicrobial silver in nanocrystalline form.
